



Apex Laundry Company, Inc. Recipient of SBA's 2007 Perseverance Award

Apex Laundry Company, Inc. was established in 1993 and is wholly owned by Jeffrey S. and Rita R. Buck. Apex Laundry Company, Inc. specializes in table linen rentals for a variety of events. Clients include: party planners, caterers, corporations, hotels, restaurants and private individuals. The business also provides linen cleaning services for customer owned goods. Apex service includes custom packaging and local pickup and delivery.

Apex was one of countless small businesses dealt a heavy blow from Katrina. But just like Rocky Balboa in the movies, Apex Laundry was knocked down but got back up. For over two months after the storm, there was no power, water or sewer. Try as they might, there was no saving their laundry business as things stood. In January, five months after the storm, the Bucks were able to get a limited amount of production going on a small dry clean press that they were able to salvage. Under normal conditions Apex Laundry processed 100 pieces per hour but now the post-Katrina production level was a paltry 100 pieces per day.

As time passed, Apex Laundry made an amazing recovery. One year and six months after the storm, company invoicing was 30 to 40% above pre-storm levels. They also had maintained the same number of employees since all the crew that had not moved away or taken employment elsewhere was hired back.

“The SBA disaster assistance loan has been instrumental in our ability to return to functionality as a participating member of the business community”, said Mr. Buck. “Without the SBA disaster loan, we could very well have gone under.” He’s shown giving SBA Administrator Preston a tour of his office and its recovery.

On June 26, 2007, SBA presented Apex Laundry Company, Inc. its 2007 Perseverance Award. The award is given to those individuals whose efforts and contributions have enabled their businesses or communities to recover successfully from a disaster.